UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
21st meeting
held on
Monday, 14 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

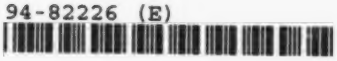
AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/49/SR.21
7 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

94-82226 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (A/48/403, A/49/114-S/1994/357, A/49/136, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/335, A/49/336, A/49/479)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping (A/48/403), as well as a number of communications relating to the item.

2. Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, introducing the report of the Special Committee (A/49/136), said that over the past year, the instrument of peace-keeping had been employed in new and ever more challenging settings. Within the Secretariat, major progress had been made in the implementation of many of the recommendations made in 1993 by the Special Committee. Among the Member States, many groups, both informal and semi-formal, had been deeply engaged in the consideration of various aspects of peace-keeping. Within the formal organs of the United Nations, peace-keeping issues had continued to receive the interest and attention they deserved. Against that background, the Special Committee had held its regular annual session and produced its report. The recommendations and conclusions in the report formed the basis of the corresponding draft resolution.

3. In its work, the Special Committee made no practical distinction between its 34 members and 44 observers, particularly as it had been able to operate on a consensus basis. Naturally States which wished to participate in the work of the Special Committee with observer status were welcome to do so. In a real sense, the Special Committee had become an open-ended working committee.

4. Introducing the draft resolution, which would be published in document A/C.4/49/L.12, he reviewed its contents and said that the draft resolution had been the focus of thorough and extensive consideration among Member States. It was a reflection of the deep and continuing interest in United Nations peace-keeping operations. There was widespread interest to ensure that peace-keeping missions, which were increasingly numerous, sizeable and complex, contributed in the most effective manner possible to international peace and security. The draft resolution took a truly comprehensive approach to peace-keeping operations, which were of vital interest both to peoples currently in need of international assistance in restoring peace and security and to peoples who might some day experience similar circumstances.

5. Nigeria's experience as an active participant in global peace-keeping, conflict resolution and crisis management efforts, had convinced it that there was a need to re-examine and reorient the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations. Since the establishment of the cease-fire monitoring group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG), Nigeria had become not only

Africa's but also one of the world's largest troop contributors to international peace-keeping operations. It was therefore concerned about the incessant harassment, kidnapping and killing of peace-keepers in various theatres of conflict. In order to encourage other countries to participate in those costly and often dangerous operations, the United Nations must develop capacity of effective deterrence against those attacks and adopt appropriate measures to provide prompt and adequate compensation for the victims, while also developing mechanisms to punish the guilty.

6. His delegation welcomed and fully supported the recent statement by the President of the Security Council on the issue of creating a more effective system of consulting with Security Council members and troop-contributing countries. Such a dialogue would not only enrich the decisions of the Council but would also enhance their legitimacy. Greater transparency would greatly help to strengthen the political support of troop-contributing countries for the mandates of the various peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. Nigeria had always taken the view that consultations between troop contributors and the Security Council were not only desirable but also necessary for the full and effective discharge of their obligations under the Charter.

7. Finally, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution, which had truly been the result of a collective effort, would be adopted by consensus.

8. Mr. ANNAN (Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations) said that in view of the constantly evolving demands on United Nations peace-keeping operations, a restructuring was being carried out in the relevant parts of the Secretariat. Over the past 18 months the Situation Centre, which operated around the clock, had been established within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. That made it possible to monitor continuously all peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world. In addition, the Field Operations Division had been integrated into the Department, so that the material, technical and administrative aspects of peace-keeping operations could be planned and organized more effectively. An Office of Planning and Support had also been established so as to improve the planning of new operations and review of existing operations. It was hoped that the Department would be able to enhance its planning function so that planners could be assigned to implement their plans directly in the field.

9. A Civilian Police Unit had been established in the Department to coordinate all United Nations civilian police activities. A De-mining Unit had been formed. That Unit, which consisted of two de-mining experts, would assess the size of mine fields in various localities, carry out some de-mining operations and assist with training. In addition, a Training Unit had been established. Currently, troops for peace-keeping operations were being provided by 75 countries: from the Philippines, which had sent one man, to Pakistan, which had sent 10,200 men. In order to ensure uniformity and mutual understanding, appropriate training was essential.

10. Much of what he had described had been achieved despite the grave shortage of financial resources. Several States, recognizing that problem, had seconded

staff to work in the Department - 105 people in all. However, in the future the Department would still need to establish permanent posts so as to ensure continuity in its work since seconded staff were generally made available to the Secretariat for between six months and one year only.

11. The experience of Somalia had been highly instructive in demonstrating the importance of command and control. In hostile conditions, smooth command and control were absolutely essential or the results could be catastrophic. It was therefore vital that every State participating in peace-keeping operations should accept the principle of unity of command and should require its commanders to come under the operational command of the Force Commander.

12. As for the issue of consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, on which the President of the Security Council had recently issued a statement, the first such meeting was to be held that same day and would be devoted to the question of extending the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

13. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) was currently considering a proposal whereby, once the Security Council had adopted a resolution on a peace-keeping operation or had instructed the Secretariat accordingly, one third of the required contributions should be assessed immediately. Under the current system it sometimes happened that States which were ready to contribute were unable to do so since the level of their contribution had not yet been established. He hoped that delegations would support that initiative, as well as other initiatives currently under discussion, such as the creation of a reserve fund for peace-keeping operations or the establishment of a separate budget for such operations. The Secretariat would continue its efforts to improve and rationalize its work in that area.

14. Ms. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that the active participation of a large number of States in the informal consultations on the draft resolution on peace-keeping operations attested to the keen interest displayed by Member States in that issue. Furthermore, the participation of 75,000 troops and police officers from 75 countries in United Nations peace-keeping operations placed in perspective recent assertions that Member States were weakening in their commitment to peace-keeping.

15. It had become a truism that the current peace-keeping operations were vastly more multifaceted then previous such operations and the challenges they faced increasingly complex. The risks surrounding their deployment had also greatly increased. In that connection, Canada welcomed the conclusion by the Sixth Committee of the negotiations on an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel and looked forward to its early adoption by the General Assembly.

16. Canada welcomed the increased capacity of Headquarters to administer field missions, which had been achieved through the creation of new, and the strengthening of existing, units of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, and it urged the competent Committees of the General Assembly, ACABQ and the

Fifth Committee, to authorize the allocation of the resources essential for the completion of that restructuring. Canada was also pleased to note that the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly would be considering the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations under agenda item 132 and hoped that the relevant processes would be simplified and standardized.

17. In an endeavour to enrich the content of discussions on peace-keeping operations, earlier in 1994 Canada had hosted a high-level meeting in Ottawa on enhancing United Nations peace-keeping capabilities. It hoped that the high-level meeting and the three working papers recently circulated to Member States would make a substantial contribution to the ongoing discussion on that issue.

18. There were many ways to contribute to the enhancement of the capabilities of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Thus, over the previous two years Canada had seconded to the Department military personnel and experts in finance, engineering, de-mining, communications and other specialized areas. It was also studying the feasibility of providing administrative and logistical support to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), in the belief that, should such support prove viable, it could serve as a model for the provision of support in the early phases of operations. Canada was also proposing the establishment of a simplified procedure for its participation in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), to reduce the administrative burdens associated with current procedures.

19. Canada welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November on consultations between Council members and troop-contributing countries; it attached paramount importance to the enhancement of the consultation process. The draft resolution under preparation recognized the importance of improving United Nations public information activities in support of peace-keeping operations both at Headquarters and in the field. The widespread distribution of impartial factual information about peace-keeping operations would help to dispel misconceptions and create a favourable climate for the conduct of such operations. With regard to command and control arrangements, it had been recognized that Special Representatives and Force Commanders could not carry out their mission successfully if there were restrictions on the use of contingents. Canada looked forward to further progress between Member States and the Organization in clarifying those matters.

20. Canada was pursuing a study on options for enhancing the United Nations capability to respond more rapidly to crises such as that in Rwanda. That study included a consideration of the possibility of creating a permanent United Nations military force. Canada looked forward to working with other interested States on those issues.

21. Mr. RAZALI (Malaysia) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations were indeed at a crossroads. The problem was caused by the decision by some countries to restrict their participation in such operations to "areas of vital national interest" and to rely increasingly on unilateral action, with or without the approval of the Security Council.

22. With the end of the cold war, the traditional definition of peace-keeping operations had changed. They were no longer confined to the use of multinational military personnel under international command and with the consent of the parties to help control and resolve conflicts between hostile States. Over the previous five years the requirement for consent of the parties had often been overridden by humanitarian imperatives such as mass starvation, refugee flows or flagrant violations of the right to life itself. The rapid increase in the number of ongoing operations and the manpower employed in them had brought with it a sharp increase in the resources needed to run those operations.

23. The crisis confronting United Nations peace-keeping operations could not, however, be attributed solely to manpower and financial problems. It was impossible to ignore the apprehensions voiced by many Member States concerning the questionable mandates of operations, particularly those with a potential to undermine the principle of the sovereignty of States and of non-interference in domestic affairs. At the same time, some United Nations operations which had been urgently needed had not been implemented in time. That had resulted in humanitarian disasters, such as the calamity of unprecedented scale in Rwanda. The Organization's role in Rwanda was a classic instance of the abandonment by certain Powers of their obligations, for the ostensible reason that the crisis in Rwanda had erupted outside their "areas of vital national interest". The humanitarian tragedy in Rwanda would forever be a stain on the conscience of those who had the power and resources and yet had refused to respond.

24. Malaysia had never had any strategic national interests in any United Nations peace-keeping operations, yet from the early years of its independence it had consciously played its part in promoting international peace and security. It remained the seventh largest contributor of troops to United Nations peace-keeping operations, with more than 2,800 peace-keepers participating in 7 of the 16 current operations. Its participation was intended to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to help make collective security a reality. It was fully prepared to work under United Nations command, and, indeed, would not agree to anything less. In that regard, it failed to understand the concern of some major Powers which refused to serve under United Nations command.

25. One area of critical importance to the vast majority of troop-contributing countries was the need for direct consultations with the Security Council. While his delegation welcomed the statement by the President of the Council of 4 November 1994, it believed that specific areas for further consultations included situations where the mandate of a new peace-keeping operation was being formulated; where the concept and/or plan of operation of a peace-keeping operation was being considered; where the extension or substantive modification of the mandate of an existing peace-keeping operation was being considered; where significant developments occurred which, in the opinion of the Secretary-General or of members of the Security Council, were likely to affect materially the functioning of the operation or its ability to fulfil its mandate; and where the withdrawal of the operation, in whole or in part, was being considered.

26. The argument that had been made for a clear and distinct separation of the roles of the Secretary-General and the Security Council and for the Secretary-General to have the ability to intercede as an honest broker had merits, given that the Security Council was often seen as an intergovernmental body which promoted the vested interests of major Powers. Those issues deserved consideration by the Committee. Account should also be taken of the significance of appropriate training and the need for an efficient Secretariat support structure. Reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, particularly developing countries, should be undertaken on a priority basis and, at the same time, financial contributions should be paid in full and on time, especially by the permanent members of the Security Council.

27. Malaysia supported the proposal for the enlargement of the membership of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. It also emphasized that peace-keeping could not be a permanent substitute for long-term peace and stability. In that regard, the forthcoming debate on an agenda for development must address the root causes of conflict, so as to ensure that resources for development activities did not diminish as a result of peace-keeping operations.

28. Mr. KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda) said that conflicts, particularly ethnic and religious conflicts, were currently among the basic challenges in the field of international peace and security. Emphasis was being placed on the need for increased preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was trying out new mechanisms which overcame the limitations of traditional international law. The establishment of a High Commissioner on National Minorities seemed particularly promising. The United Nations was extending its network of regional offices, a step which, among other things, was designed to improve early warning and conflict prevention. Preventive deployment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had prevented the spread of hostilities. Regional organizations were also striving to improve the instruments at their disposal. In that connection, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had set up a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

29. All means for the peaceful settlement of conflicts should be exploited before enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter were considered. The effectiveness of United Nations peace-keeping operations was more vital than ever. States which contributed funds and troops should work closely together with the United Nations and the regional organizations, as well as with the parties concerned, to find more effective ways and means of strengthening peace-keeping operations, particularly through the establishment of coordinated military and political organizational forms of cooperation.

30. There could be no uniform international standards for peace-keeping. There was therefore a need for a flexibility of approach and appropriate preparedness. Regional and subregional organizations should play an increasingly active role in both preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping operations. Some regional organizations, especially those in the developing countries, lacked the necessary capacities and financial resources. For that reason they should be supported in their initiatives in what was an area of common concern. Areas in

which support was vital included adequate assistance in logistics and the capacity enhancement of rapidly deployable peace-keepers. The idea of stand-by peace-keepers within national armies - which would require additional resources - was already being proposed. The United Nations would have to play a leading role, especially through its Peace-keeping Reserve Fund. There should be a uniform set of rules of procedure, as well as ground rules for the participation of Member States in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

31. His delegation attached great importance to the ongoing review of current administrative and financial arrangements for peace-keeping operations. It commended the Secretary-General for his report on the effective planning, budgeting and administration of peace-keeping operations (A/48/945) and would proffer its views on various elements contained therein at an appropriate stage. It was important to ensure that discussion of the report led to the adoption of measures which, inter alia, were fair, equitable and balanced for all troop contributors. Equally important was the need to formulate a clear code on the obligations and duties of troop-contributing countries, so that their troops were adequately prepared for missions.

32. If the United Nations was to fulfil the challenging task of peace-keeping, the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund must at all times be adequately replenished. His delegation upheld the principle of the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the principle of capacity to pay and the active quest for voluntary contributions from all possible sources.

33. As stated in the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace", the United Nations should place the main emphasis on preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. That was not only cheaper, it was also the most rational and acceptable option for the lasting resolution of the kind of conflicts currently taking place. In that connection, there was a need to strengthen the necessary capacities for diplomatic and political action, including the collection and analysis of all possible information on potential areas of conflict. Regional and subregional organizations, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations, would be useful instruments in that regard.

34. Mr. BREIER (Venezuela) said that, at its last two sessions, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had made great progress in its comprehensive consideration of peace-keeping operations. From the political and practical points of view, each crisis had its own characteristic features which made it unique. The response of the Organization should take those specific characteristics into account.

35. The Security Council was not in a position to identify operational policy and mobilize resources and other bodies and organizational systems therefore had to be involved in that task. In that connection, the Special Committee should study how best to ensure effective cooperation and coordination throughout the system, and should monitor the entire process. There should be transparency in the relations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Operations should be planned and conducted using the

most advanced methods and procedures. Member States that were in a position to do so should continue to support reforms. It was essential to ensure that responsibility for the conduct of peace-keeping operations was not borne by national or multinational forces. Member States and the regional organizations should be in a position to carry out mandates under the Charter on a collective basis and recognize the command and control requirements of particular United Nations peace-keeping operations. The funding of operations should remain the collective responsibility of Member States. The special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council should once again be emphasized. The system for the equitable sharing of costs envisaged in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) should not be subordinated to unilateral interests.

36. It was essential to make a special effort in the dissemination of information directed both to the general public and to Member States themselves so that the political bodies could effectively support the conduct of the Organization's work.

37. Constant attention must be paid to the issue of the safety and security of staff. The recent discussion of the draft convention on that subject had been a major achievement. The support of States would, as before, be of fundamental importance in ensuring staff safety and security.

38. Mr. OWADA (Japan) said that, as the experience of the United Nations in Cambodia had shown, the resolution of conflicts required a comprehensive approach; peace-keeping operations, despite their importance, were just one element of any peace process. Turning to the draft resolution under consideration, he identified a number of points to which his delegation attached particular importance.

39. First of all, for a peace-keeping operation to achieve its goals it must be carefully designed in every detail, including such issues as its overall structure, its mandate and the period of deployment. Moreover, a unified command and control mechanism must be in place.

40. Secondly, a mechanism for consultation and coordination between Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat was of increasing importance. In that connection, Japan welcomed the statements by the President of the Security Council on communication between members and non-members of the Council.

41. Thirdly, the United Nations should be more vigorous in disseminating public information on the nature and mandates of peace-keeping operations.

42. Fourthly, it was essential to ensure the most effective use of resources in connection with every peace-keeping operation, which required improved financial control, including audit and inspection mechanisms.

43. Fifthly, strong emphasis should be placed on the training of personnel; in that connection his delegation recommended that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations should coordinate efforts by countries and organs involved in peace-

keeping operations, and that Member States should share information and experience concerning their national training programmes. The establishment of national or regional peace-keeping training centres would also be useful.

44. The issue of the safety and security of United Nations peace-keeping personnel was of the utmost importance. That issue might be addressed in the following manner. In the first place, in preparing to launch a peace-keeping operation, the Security Council should carefully assess the safety and security situation in the area of deployment and take appropriate measures to counteract any possible threats to United Nations personnel. Secondly, the Secretary-General should initiate a dialogue with Member States on possible additional safety measures. Thirdly, the same legal and practical arrangements should be made to ensure the security of troops and civilians engaged in humanitarian activities as were made for ensuring the security of United Nations personnel engaged in military aspects of peace-keeping.

45. Finally, his delegation announced that Japan intended to continue participating actively in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

46. Mr. WORONIECKI (Poland) said that the dramatic expansion of peace-keeping operations was confronting the United Nations with new tasks which went beyond the traditional concept of peace-keeping. Poland had been taking part in United Nations peace-keeping operations since 1973 and was ready to maintain the number of Polish peace-keepers. However, it was worried about the growing tendency to resort to peace-keeping operations as if they were the only means of conflict resolution; it would be better for the parties to a conflict to make greater efforts to achieve a political settlement.

47. The Polish Government fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to reorganize the Secretariat and strengthen its peace-keeping management and planning capacity, and it noted with satisfaction that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations was becoming the central link in such activities.

48. There had long been a need to establish a mechanism for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat. The statement of the President of the Security Council dated 4 November 1994 was welcome in that respect.

49. There were a number of other aspects of peace-keeping operations which were important for Poland. For example, the Security Council should rigorously review, and if necessary even terminate, operations whose mandates had become unworkable. In addition to the present Polish contingent involved in peace-keeping operations, the Polish Government had undertaken to prepare a logistics unit and designate it as a United Nations stand-by force. The success of peace-keeping operations depended on the coordination of all their political, civil and humanitarian components. With regard to the problem of the casualties among peace-keeping personnel, it was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee would complete the drafting of a universally binding legal instrument on the topic. With regard to the refunding issue, the delays resulting from the late payment of contributions were causing serious difficulties for many troop-

contributing countries. On the question of regional arrangements, the Polish delegation shared the view of the Secretary-General that the use of such arrangements would further democratize the international system but that the formation of spheres of influence might deal a serious blow to collective security.

50. The Polish delegation was happy to note that the military manoeuvres held on Polish territory as part of the training of United Nations troops had been successfully completed, and it reiterated Poland's readiness to continue to play an active part in United Nations peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.

51. Mr. Chong-Ha YOO (Republic of Korea) said that as regional armed conflicts had come to replace the East-West confrontation United Nations peace-keeping operations had grown dramatically in both importance and size, and the Organization must reassess its capacity to conduct such operations. In order for peace-keeping operations to be effective they must have a clear and feasible mandate and be provided with sufficient human and material resources; in addition, it was important to establish an estimated time-frame for an operation and a phase-out plan and, where necessary, periodically review its mandate.

52. The increasing number and complexity of peace-keeping operations created an increasing need for more frequent and regular consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, and in that connection the delegation of the Republic of Korea welcomed the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 4 November 1994 about the arrangements for consultation proposed by New Zealand and Argentina. Enhanced interaction between the three parties would not only facilitate the preparation and assessment of the various elements of peace-keeping operations but also enhance the transparency of the work of the Security Council. An effective consultation process must include the rapid supply of information on peace-keeping operations; the discontinuation of the weekly reports on peace-keeping operations was regrettable, for they had been a valuable source of information for the delegation of the Republic of Korea, and it was to be hoped that publication would be resumed in the near future. Since the rapid deployment of peace-keeping forces was a critical factor in conflict settlement, there was a growing need to enhance the level of preparedness of the operations, and the Republic of Korea welcomed the recent efforts of the Secretariat to pre-stock equipment, including armoured personnel carriers.

53. The safety of the personnel involved in peace-keeping operations was another important issue. His delegation therefore welcomed the completion of the work in the Sixth Committee on a draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel and it hoped that the concerns of staff members who were excluded from the scope of the draft convention would be addressed in future discussions.

54. The lack of adequate financial resources for peace-keeping operations remained a major source of concern. It was important for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time. The recommendations on the diversification of sources of funding deserved the Committee's close attention.

Since the establishment of peace-keeping missions was a principal task of the Security Council, it was to be hoped that the permanent members of the Council would play a more constructive role in alleviating the Organization's financial difficulties.

55. The delegation of the Republic of Korea reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's proposals on simplification of the budget process, for they would facilitate the creation of a unified budget system for peace-keeping operations which would enable the Secretary-General to be more flexible in dealing with unforeseen expenditures at the initial stage of a new operation and would serve as a sound mechanism for allocating financial resources. Furthermore, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the process it was essential to have greater uniformity, in particular the standardization of the reimbursement rate for the provision of equipment.

56. Since the time when it had become a member of the United Nations in 1991 the Republic of Korea had been actively participating in peace-keeping operations, beginning with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and ending with the secondment of military observers to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The Republic of Korea also planned to join in the United Nations stand-by arrangements. It would maintain its solid commitment to the endeavours of the United Nations to guarantee international peace and security.

57. Mr. LIAN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that peace-keeping activities constituted one of the most important means by which the United Nations contributed to conflict resolution and the promotion of peace; the Nordic countries advocated the continued strengthening of such functions. Recent years had seen not only a considerable increase in the number of peace-keeping operations but also the diversification of the tasks and functions, including the preventive deployment of troops, disarmament and demobilization, protection and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, monitoring of human rights, and assistance with the return of refugees; the demand for the United Nations to become involved in such tasks throughout the world continued undiminished. The lack of resources and personnel made it difficult for the Organization to respond to all the demands, and in the light of experience close consideration must be given to the question of what demands should be made on United Nations peace-keeping activities in the future.

58. In the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 3 May the Council had for the first time specified the guidelines and requirements for peace-keeping operations, and the Nordic countries wished to emphasize the need for the formulation of clear and feasible mandates as well as the importance of improving the capacity of the United Nations for rapid deployment in peace-keeping operations and for the provision of troop reinforcements.

59. The rapid increase in the size and complexity of the operations posed new demands in their planning, organization and coordination, and the United Nations

must perform those functions more effectively. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations had greatly increased its capacity through reorganization and the recruitment of additional personnel, but the Nordic countries believed that there was still room for improvement in administration and logistics. Unity of command and the establishment of United Nations stand-by arrangements in Member States should also be emphasized.

60. The relationship between humanitarian relief operations and peace-keeping measures was an important one, and in many cases a close interaction between the two forms of activity was most desirable. The Nordic countries advocated a more active role for civilian police forces, for such personnel could perform a variety of crucial functions in most peace-keeping operations.

61. Increasingly the United Nations had to respond to complex emergencies which had political, military and humanitarian aspects. Traditional peace-keeping or humanitarian measures were insufficient in such situations, which required a comprehensive approach by the States concerned, as well as the assistance of regional arrangements and organizations. In the future, regional organizations would have a more active role to play in the maintenance of peace, and Article 52, paragraph 2, of the Charter was relevant in that connection. However, it was important to remember that the fundamental role in the maintenance of international peace and security belonged to the Security Council.

62. The capacity of the United Nations to conduct peace-keeping operations must be continuously enhanced, and the Nordic countries were encouraged by the progress achieved on that and related issues over the past 12 months. They had themselves been engaged in the efforts: in particular, they had submitted a proposal for improving the command and control capability of the United Nations in peace-keeping operations, and Norway had chaired an informal working group which had sought to delineate the requirements for operational command and the accomplishment of the tasks entrusted to peace-keeping missions by the Security Council. The working group's report had been transmitted to the Secretary-General in response to resolution 48/43 and was intended to facilitate the drafting of his report on the issue. The Nordic countries wished to highlight a number of important elements, including the formulation of a common understanding of the meaning of operational control, the need for clear lines of command and the central role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the need to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity for contingency planning and large-scale logistics planning, and the need for coordination between the United Nations, its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies and, on a case-by-case basis, non-governmental organizations.

63. The political direction of peace-keeping operations was of great importance, and the Nordic countries emphasized the need to institute multilateral arrangements for regular consultation and information-sharing between the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries, and the members of the Security Council; they had supported the proposal of Argentina and New Zealand on that subject. They also welcomed the important statement made by the President of the Security Council on 4 November. They firmly believed that the

enhanced dialogue with the Security Council and the increased transparency on such issues would be of crucial importance in maintaining the broad political support for United Nations peace-keeping operations and would also increase their effectiveness. The consultations should be focused on specific areas and conducted on a regular basis. The Nordic countries noted with satisfaction that the Security Council was ready to consider further measures to enhance the new arrangements; one area for future consideration would be the possibility of prior consultations with the countries in a position to contribute troops to a possible new peace-keeping operation before a decision was taken by the Security Council to launch the operation in question.

64. As the number of troop-contributing countries grew, the need for training of peace-keepers at all levels and in a variety of fields increased. Such training was first and foremost a national responsibility, whereas the role of the United Nations Secretariat should be to provide coordination and other assistance. In that connection the Nordic countries supported the idea of mobile training teams to assist the Secretariat and were themselves ready to share their vast experience and knowledge in preparing forces for peace-keeping operations.

65. Peace-keeping involved the important question of safety and security for United Nations and associated personnel. The Nordic countries were generally satisfied with the draft convention on the matter, which would provide additional legal protection for such personnel. They felt, however, that personnel of the humanitarian and other agencies also deserved such protection.

66. One of the most difficult and urgent questions facing the United Nations was how to improve its financial situation was faced was how to improve the financial situation. The continued reluctance of Member States to pay their dues in full and on time had to cease immediately. Such a lack of discipline affected the financing of peace-keeping operations, placed an added burden on troop-contributing countries and at the same time discouraged participation in such operations by developing countries. The Nordic countries underlined the need for prompt payments to troop-contributing countries and, in particular, compensation for contingent-owned equipment. It was essential that at the current session the General Assembly should take action that would contribute to ensuring a stable financial base for United Nations peace-keeping activities and to streamlining ways of financing such activities. The Nordic countries supported the proposal for introducing annual budgets for such operations. They also supported the notion of a unified peace-keeping budget and the proposals to give the Secretary-General financial authority to speed up the start-up phase of such operations.

67. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) expressed his appreciation of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136) and thanked its Chairman.

68. In 1995, when the Special Committee celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its formation, it would be appropriate to recall the importance of its work. The changes that had taken place in the world in recent years had affected

United Nations peace-keeping activities and the way they were carried out. It was essential that countries should strive to act as effectively as the Secretariat had done in elaborating new coordination mechanisms and in strengthening and restructuring the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

69. Throughout history, mankind had never enjoyed lasting peace. In order to resolve the problems of furthering the cause of peace it was essential that analytical work should be carried out at the highest level, and at the same time a strict moral stance should be adhered to. His delegation supported the notion that peace resulted from the establishment of justice; the problems of maintaining peace therefore required an awareness of the concepts of fraternity and solidarity, together with the establishment of juster relations between States and more humane relations between individuals.

70. Peace-keeping operations had been necessary in the past and would be in the future, especially in cases of the violation of fundamental norms of international law; the United Nations undertook such operations when peace was threatened or breached. Generally speaking, violence occurred as the result of injustice in the political, social and economic spheres, and it was no surprise that United Nations operations had begun to include such elements as humanitarian assistance and assistance in conducting elections. The United Nations had achieved great successes conceptually, programmatically and organizationally, but it needed solid moral, political and financial support. In that connection attention should be given first and foremost to rationalizing the budget and creating effective control mechanisms.

71. His delegation was pleased that at the current session the General Assembly had adopted the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel in the performance of peace-keeping operations, since such personnel were daily subjected to risk in carrying out their duties. His delegation also approved of the consultative mechanism proposed by Argentina and New Zealand within the Security Council, since such a mechanism was of great importance. Lastly he expressed gratitude to troop-contributing countries and to peace-keepers working in difficult conditions in the name of the ideals of peace, harmony and justice enunciated in the Charter.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.10)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.11)

72. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.4/49/L.10 and L.11.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.